

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of fabricating at least a ceramic honeycomb body according to claim 4, wherein a claim 1, wherein the temperature of the high-humidity ambience is not lower than at least 80°C.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of fabricating at least a ceramic honeycomb body according to claim 4, wherein a claim 1, wherein the high-humidity ambience is formed by being supplied with supplying high-humidity steam.
4. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating at least a ceramic honeycomb body according to claim 1, including a multiplicity of cells, the cells having wall thicknesses of 0.125 mm or less, comprising  
drying at least an extrusion-molded argillaceous honeycomb body by  
exposing the extrusion-molded argillaceous honeycomb body to a high-humidity ambience of not less than 70 % in humidity; and  
irradiating the extrusion-molded argillaceous honeycomb body with microwaves having a frequency of 1,000 to 10,000 MHz;  
wherein the drying process described above the extrusion-molded argillaceous honeycomb body is carried out by measuring the a temperature of the extrusion-molded argillaceous honeycomb body and changing-controlling supply of the microwaves the conditions for microwave radiation in accordance with the measured temperature.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of fabricating at least a ceramic honeycomb body according to claim 4, wherein claim 1, wherein the temperature of the honeycomb body is measured by use of selected one of an by using a thermometer selected

from the group consisting of infrared radiation ~~thermometer~~ thermometers and a laser ~~thermometer~~ thermometers.

6. (Withdrawn) In fabricating at least a honeycomb body of ceramics composed of a multiplicity of cells arranged in the shape of honeycomb with the cell wall not thicker than 0.125 mm, a system for drying at least an extrusion-molded argillaceous honeycomb body, comprising a drying bath for accommodating at least a honeycomb body, a humidifier for creating a high-humidity ambience of not lower than 70 % in humidity in the drying bath, and at least a microwave generator for supplying microwaves in the frequency range of 1,000 to 10,000 MHz into the drying bath.

7. (Withdrawn) A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 6, wherein the humidifier includes a high-temperature steam source for generating high-temperature steam.

8. (Withdrawn) A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 6, comprising means for measuring the temperature of the honeycomb body being dried, and control means for changing the conditions for microwave radiation in accordance with the measured temperature.

9. (Withdrawn) A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 8, comprising a drying bath having a transparent partitioning wall formed in a part thereof, and means arranged outside the drying bath for measuring the temperature of the honeycomb body, through the transparent partitioning wall, without contacting the honeycomb body.

10. (Withdrawn) A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 9, wherein the temperature measuring means is selected one of an infrared thermometer and a laser thermometer.

11. (Withdrawn) A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 10, wherein the transparent partitioning wall constituting part of the drying bath is made of selected one of glass and a rigid plastic.

12. (Withdrawn) A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 9, further comprising water-removing means for preventing water drips from attaching on that surface of the transparent partitioning wall constituting part of the drying bath which is nearer to the drying bath.

13. (Withdrawn) A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 12, wherein the water-removing means is a blower for blowing the air onto the surface of the transparent partitioning wall nearer to the drying bath.

14. (Withdrawn) A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 13, wherein the blower is configured to have a blowing capacity of not less than 0.5 m<sup>3</sup>/min.

15. (Withdrawn) A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 10, further comprising water-removing means for preventing water drips from attaching on that surface of the transparent partitioning wall constituting part of the drying bath which is nearer to the drying bath.